

Planning Commission Application

02/02/2026 5:20 PM (MST)



Full Name	Susan Courson
Are you an Erie resident?	Yes
Are you under the age of eighteen?	No
Are you currently serving on the commission you are applying for?	No
Home Address	416 Baker Lane
Email	susan.courson@bvsd.org
Primary Phone Number	720-352-8275
Alternate Phone Number	NA
Employer	Boulder Valley School District
Job Title/Occupation	Classroom teacher
Have you ever been employed by the Town of Erie?	No
Do you work for or own a company that does business with the Town of Erie?	No
What is your highest level of education completed?	Masters Degree or Higher
Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission and what specific talents or expertise do you bring if appointed?	I am interested in being on the planning commission because I live in Erie and have a vested interest in what is going on in the town and how it will affect me and others now and in the future. I have a unique perspective; I am a Boulder native, and have lived in and around the area my entire adult life. As well I have taught for 27 years between BVSD and SVVSD and growth and development affects the education system, families, teachers, and the community in which these school preside.
Have you served on another board/commission in an advisory capacity? If so, please describe the board and what made serving in that capacity a good experience? What were the major concerns or issues?	<p>Yes, I have served in an advisory capacity on PTO and Boulder Valley Long Range Accountability Committee. The board's purpose was to decide what is best for the current school or schools. My role involved providing input on regarding policy, programming, strategy, community needs, etc. and collaborating with a small group of members to support informed decision-making.</p> <p>What made the experience positive was the collaborative environment and the opportunity to work with individuals who brought diverse perspectives and expertise. I found the discussions thoughtful and solutions-oriented, which allowed us to address challenges in a balanced and practical way.</p>

Please describe a situation where you were working with a small group and disagreed with the direction of the project, what did you do? What was the result?

In a small group project, we were tasked with developing a solution under a tight deadline. Early on, the group decided to take an approach that I felt didn't fully address the core requirements and could create issues later in the project.

Instead of pushing back immediately, I asked questions to better understand the reasoning behind the decision and listened to everyone's perspective. After that, I shared my concerns respectfully and supported them with specific examples and potential risks.

If you were appointed, what goals would you like to see accomplished on this board or commission?

If I am appointed, one of my primary goals would be to ensure that all planning and land use decisions are evaluated through a lens of fiscal responsibility. This includes carefully considering long-term costs, funding sources, and the financial impact on existing residents, schools, and public services. I believe responsible planning requires not only accommodating growth, but also ensuring that development decisions are sustainable and do not place undue strain on public resources.

In addition, I would like to look at the broader demographic and trends Colorado is experiencing, including recent population decline, such trends can impact how the committee navigates the decisions. Evaluating growth projections, housing needs, infrastructure investments, in light of these shifts is critical to making informed, forward-thinking recommendations.

By focusing on fiscal accountability and data-driven planning, my goal would be to support decisions that protect Erie's long-term financial health and overall quality of life.

What do you think are the most important planning and land use issues facing Erie? What insights could you bring to the Commission's deliberations and recommendations?

One of the most important planning and land use issues facing Erie is managing rapid growth in a way that remains sustainable, equitable, and fiscally responsible. The pace of development is impacting all residents, from infrastructure capacity and traffic to schools, public services, and overall quality of life.

Funding is a critical concern tied directly to these growth decisions. With the state operating at a deficit and local school districts facing financial strain, it is essential that the town carefully evaluate the long-term financial impacts of land use and development choices. Decisions made today—such as zoning changes, infrastructure expansion, and development approvals—have lasting cost implications for taxpayers and the community as a whole.

I believe fiscal responsibility should be a guiding principle in planning. Just as individuals must make thoughtful financial choices in their daily lives, the town must ensure that growth pays for itself where possible and does not place an undue burden on existing residents.

Please read and agree with the following statement

I certify that the facts and statements contained in this Board and Commission Application are true and correct.

I further understand that false statements shall be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

I further certify that I have not been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Colorado or in another jurisdiction.

I understand that falsification, omission or misrepresentation will result in a rejection of this application. Any falsification, omission or representation is evidence of perjury in the second degree.

If I become a Board or Commission member with the Town, this form is valid for the period of my term with the Town and the crime records may be updated periodically at the discretion of the Town.

I understand that this application is considered a public record and subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

I Agree Yes

If appointed to the Planning Commission, I agree to follow the Erie Municipal Code, the Comprehensive Plan, and other applicable laws. Yes

All board and commission members must follow the rules and regulations in the Erie Municipal Code as well as the Town's policies related to harassment, anti-violence, and technology use. Yes

Acknowledgement Signature

Susan Cowson
